

[ACTIVE ATTRACTANT COMPOSITION FOR INSECTS]

Abstract

An attractant for an insect trap functions by creating an attractive smell or other olfactory sensation, or an antennal response which elicits a behavioral response for a flying insect. In the case of the housefly (*musca domestica*), preferred attractant ingredients are trimethylamine, butyric acid, Z-9-tricosene (muscalure), and egg powder. Highly volatile attractant components are dispensed separately, and all air-borne attractants are mixed and distributed together to enhance the synergistic effects between them. The present invention is the first explicit report of the synergy between chemical attractants (e.g. trimethylamine and butyric acid) and food attractants, such as egg powder. If the attractants of the present invention are packaged in a cartridge, then precise amounts of the discreet chemical attractants can be metered out for optimum attraction of insects. Further, the concentrations of chemical components of the attractant composition comprising the present invention are tightly controlled to avoid objectionable odors, but at the same time, attract flies.